

Serial No. 08/797,188

PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 20 (twice amended): In combination for use with a central station and a plurality of vehicles for selecting and operating individual ones of the vehicles in accordance with addresses and commands provided by the central station,

a pad in a plurality of pads,

5 a first switch in the pad, the first switch having first and second states and operable on a repetitive basis to the second state for a particular number of times to select an individual one of the vehicles to be addressed by the central station,

10 a plurality of additional switches in the pad, the additional switches having first and second states and operable to the second state in a particular pattern to obtain the operation of the individual one of the vehicles in accordance with the pattern of operation of the additional switches in the second state,

a plurality of light indications in the pad, each of the light indications being associated with a different one of the vehicles in the plurality,

15 means for energizing the light indications in sequence [on a cyclic basis] before any operations of the first switch in the pad to the second state to select the individual one of the vehicles in the plurality,

20 means for continuously energizing the individual one of the light indications associated with the individual one of the vehicles when the first switch in the pad has been operated to the second state on the repetitive basis for the particular number of times to select the individual one of the vehicles to be addressed by the central station, and

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means for skipping the energizing of the light indications associated with the vehicles addressed by the pads in the plurality other than the pad when the first switch in the pad is operated on the repetitive basis to address the individual one of the vehicles.

Cancel claims 155 and 157.

Claim 156 (amended): In combination for use with a plurality of vehicles each having an individual address and having members for moving the vehicles,

a central station,

a plurality of pads each operatively connected to the central station and each operative to provide addresses individual to any one of such vehicles and to provide commands for operating such vehicle,

the central station being operative to receive the addresses and commands from the pads and to transmit to the vehicles addresses and commands in packets each composed of a plurality of binary indications representing the address and the commands for an individual one of the vehicles.

means in the central station for transmitting the packets of the binary indications to the vehicles, <sup>in the plurality</sup> <sup>from each of the pad</sup>

each of the pads including a switch actuatable a number of times to select any one of the vehicles, the particular number of times being dependent upon the particular one of the vehicles to be addressed by the pad,

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memory means in the central station for remembering each of the vehicles  
addressed at any instant and the pad addressing the vehicle, and  
means in the central station for preventing each of the pads from addressing one  
of the vehicles already being addressed by another one of the pads,

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[In a combination as set forth in claim 155,]

there being a plurality of light illuminable members in each pad, each of the light  
illuminable members being operable, when illuminated, to indicate an individual one of the  
vehicles,

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the preventing means in the central station being operable to prevent each pad  
from illuminating light illuminable members individual to vehicles being addressed by the  
other pads.

Claim 158 (amended): In combination for use with a plurality of vehicles each  
having an individual address and having members for moving the vehicles,  
a central station,

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a plurality of pads coupled to the central station, each of the pads having a first  
member actuatable a sequential number of times to address any one of the vehicles  
dependent upon the number of actuations and having second members actuatable to provide  
for a movement of the addressed vehicle,

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means in the central station for interrogating the pads to determine the number of actuations of the first member in each of the pads and to determine the actuations of the second members in each of the pads.

means in the central station for providing for each of the pads first binary indications addressing the vehicle being selected by the pad and second binary indications relating to the movements to be provided in the vehicle.

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means in the central station for remembering each pad and the vehicle selected by the pad and for providing for the transmittal of such information to the pads, and

means responsive in the pads to the remembered information transmitted to the pads from the central station for skipping in each pad the binary indications of vehicles already being addressed by others of the pads when the first member in the pad is actuated the sequential number of times.

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[In a combination as set forth in claim 157,]

there being in each pad a plurality of light illuminating members each one for a different one of the vehicles and each being illuminable to identify the vehicle selected by the pad, and

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means responsive in each pad to the remembered information transmitted to the pad from the central station for skipping the light illuminating members indicating the vehicles already being addressed by others of the pads when the first member in the pad is actuated the sequential number of times to address one of the vehicles.